Production of Tea

315. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quality of production of Tea in the country during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of the export of Tea during this period and foreign exchange earned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Production and export of tea during the last three years has been as follows:—

Year	Production	Exports	
		Quantity	Value
	(mn. kgs.)	(mn. kgs.)	(Rs. crores)
1997	810.61	203.00	1774.78
1998	870.40	210.34	2309.44
1999	805.61	190.18	1848.63

(SOURCE: Tea Board)

Employee Assistance Centres for workers availing VRS in Gujarat

316. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established Employee Assistance Centres for the workers availing voluntary retirement under NRF in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what type of assistance is being provided by these Centres to the workers opting for VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad has set up Employee Assistance Centres in ten cities in Gujarat with assistance from the National Renewal Fund. These centres conduct survey of the workers opting for voluntary retirement and those rationalised from the organised sector. The centres provide counselling and retraining assistance to such workers for their redeployment.